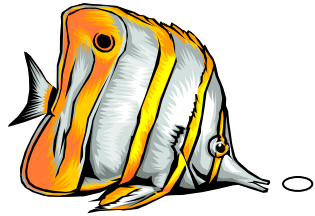


# Curriculum Guide Pre- and Post-Activities

THE FLORIDA  
AQUARIUM 



Grades  
K-2

## Introduction

Welcome to The Florida Aquarium! This guide is designed to help you utilize your time efficiently and get the most out of your field trip experience. The following pages will provide you with suggestions for pre- and post-visit activities, in addition to things you can do while at The Florida Aquarium.

Use The Florida Aquarium to introduce students to “The Florida Water Story.” Trace a drop of rain beginning in the *Wetlands Gallery* as it travels from freshwater streams and rivers, to estuaries and beaches, and finally out to the coral reefs, and the open ocean. With The Florida Aquarium as your guide, explore these individual habitats and learn about the many different plants and animals that live there.

**Aquarium Programs:** Supplement your visit with one of our school programs!

- Reef Bash (classroom or auditorium)

**Traveling Programs:** Bring The Florida Aquarium to you!

- Adaptive Advantage
- Aquatic Field Study
- Basic Beach Biology

### Vocabulary to Consider

- **Adaptation** – A body part or behavior that helps an organism survive in its habitat.
- **Biodiversity** – The variation of life forms within an ecosystem
- **Camouflage** – Behavior and/or markings designed to disguise or hide.
- **Ecosystem** – A community of living things and their environment interacting together.
- **Estuary** – A semi-enclosed body of water in which freshwater from rivers and streams mix with saltwater from the ocean.
- **Food Web/ Food Chain** – A way of describing the complex relationships between organisms and what they eat.
- **Habitat** – A place where plants and animals live. It provides food, water, shelter and space.
- **Invertebrate** – An animal without a backbone.
- **S.C.U.B.A** – Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.
- **Vertebrate** – An animal with a backbone.

The key to getting the most out of your visit to The Florida Aquarium is to come prepared. By discussing relevant topics and incorporating fun and interesting activities into your classroom, students will better appreciate what they see on their field trip.

## Pre-Visit Suggestions

- Establish groups before your visit, and assign each group an ocean-themed name. This will allow adult leaders to keep track of their students throughout The Florida Aquarium. This also breaks the students into learning groups for pre- and post-visit activities.
- Decorate your classroom or doorway with a marine theme.
- Go on an imaginary scuba dive.
  - Using construction paper, make a scuba mask that can be worn at an Aquarium dive show.
  - Teach the students common dive signs for some of the animals they will see throughout the Aquarium.



- Read books on marine topics to introduce students to the marine environment. Suggested readings can be found on the following websites: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/science/readlist.html> and <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/5924/storybooksaboutmarinelife.htm>
- Make an edible aquarium. Make blue Jell-O according to the box. Pour into clear plastic cups. Let the cups cool in refrigerator until partially set and add gummy fish. Place them back in refrigerator until completely set and serve.
- Play Aquarium BINGO. Call out simple descriptions of common plants and animals found throughout The Florida Aquarium. Ask students to figure out which (if any) picture on their card fits the description.
- Create a Florida Aquarium journal. Divide the journal into four galleries: Wetlands, Bays and Beaches, Coral Reef and Ocean Commotion. While visiting the Aquarium, have students draw pictures of what they see in those galleries.
- There are many fish in the ocean with funny names. Have the students draw what they imagine these fish might look like and then provide them with pictures of the actual fish. Compare results. (Swordfish, batfish, sailfish, lionfish, catfish, porcupine fish, angelfish, frogfish, butterfly fish, bonefish, parrotfish, pork fish, and squirrelfish are all possibilities.) See some of the Ocean Commotion animals in our podcasts prior to your visit. Check out this link: <http://sealife.flaquarium.org/Zones/OC/index.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



Now that students are familiar with the types of things they might see at The Florida Aquarium, it is time to get up close and personal. There are many activities students can do to get the most out of their time here.

## While You Are Here

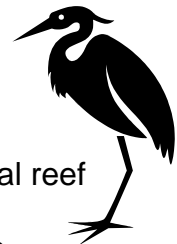
- Focus on the 5 senses:



- Touch: Visit the stingrays in the lobby touch pool and the invertebrates in the *No Bone Zone* for a hands-on experience.
- Sight: Watch the reef fish interact with each other in the Coral Reef gallery.
- Sound: Listen for birds in the *Wetlands* and *Bays and Beaches*.
- Smell: Take a minute in the Wetlands to take in the many different scents that surround you.
- Taste: Not with your mouth silly, but by discovering what our stingrays eat at one of the Aquarium's stingray feedings.
  - 10:30 and 3:30\* (\*except on Mondays)

- Get on board the S.S Tampa for an interactive dive in Shark Bay.

- 12:00 and 3:00 daily (show times are subject to change)



- Join us for an interactive dive adventure in our 500,000 gallon coral reef exhibit. Here you will buddy-up with a diver and explore the reef, identifying fish, looking for lost treasure, and learning how you can help protect the reef and all of its wonder

- 11:00 and :00 daily (show times are subject to change)

- Stop by an animal show or two. (show times are subject to change)

- Penguin Promenade – 10:00am or 3:00pm
- Truth or Tails – 11:30am
- Basics of Otterology – 2:30pm

- Check out our newest exhibit, *Ocean Commotion*. Explore the wonders of the deep through touch on our large interactive ocean wall, and meet some of our newest inhabitants. Don't forget to vote for your favorite Ocean Commotion character as you leave! If you have a smart phone you can access our gallery podcasts within the exhibit at this link:

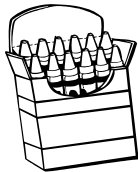
<http://sealife.flaquarium.org/Zones/OC/index.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

- Go on a scavenger hunt. How many reptiles can you find in the *Wetlands Gallery*? How many different species of shark can you find throughout the Aquarium? How many different species of seahorse can be found in *Dragons Down Under*? Print out one of ours from the exhibits section of our web site, or make up one of your own.

Now is your chance to build on the concepts discussed before your visit to The Florida Aquarium. Take this opportunity to further explore the many different plants, animals and habitats you discovered on your field trip.

## Back in the Classroom

- What was your favorite animal at The Florida Aquarium? Draw a picture of it and describe why you liked it.
- ABC Ocean Book: Write each letter of the alphabet on a sheet of paper. Have students draw a letter, and then choose a sea animal whose name begins with that letter. Then draw the animal or find a picture of it to glue to the page. Write facts about the animal on the back of the paper. When all the letters have been finished, photocopy and staple all the pages into a book for each student to take home.



- Discuss the meaning of “float” and “sink.” Using items such as a crayon, sponge, button, soap, cork, penny and paper clip, have students predict as a class, whether these items will float or sink. Demonstrate each item to test their hypotheses. Can you think of any animals at The Florida Aquarium that might sink or float better than others?
- Play the game, “I’m thinking of…” Encourage students to use descriptive words so that other students can try and guess which Florida Aquarium animal the leader is imagining.
- Play “Who has the ocean creature?” Cut out several pictures of different ocean creatures and pass them out to the class. Pull the names of the creatures out of a hat. The person with that creature stands up. The last student sitting wins!
- Ocean Animal Stained Glass. Give the students a sea creature cut-out made from contact paper or glue and wax paper. Then let them make their own stained glass creature by gluing small pieces of colored tissue paper on the surface. After they have dried, hang them in the window to make a beautiful stained glass look.
- Have a puppet show. Encourage each student to create a puppet similar to one of the animals that they saw at The Florida Aquarium. Divide them into groups and allow them to interact with the other students in a mock puppet show. Afterwards hang the puppets up throughout the room.

